



July 18, 2005

Noteworthy:

“The average time, any nomination, even a controversial one on the Senate floor is four days, so it's not going to impact the work we are doing in the Senate. The Judiciary Committee will be busy but it won't disrupt the flow in the Senate. We have every reason to believe we can get this new nominee confirmed before the first Monday in October when the Supreme Court begins its fall term.”

-Senator McConnell, CNN, 7/18/05

“[President Bush] exceeded the expectations for advice and consent by contacting so many through his staff and apparently directly on his own as well, so I think he has -- he's achieved what we were looking for in advice and consent.”

- Senator Ben Nelson, Fox News' "Special Report," 7/18/05

“Good afternoon, everyone. I would just like to make brief mention of the Supreme Court vacancy that exists. The President is continuing to move forward on a nominee to fill the Supreme Court vacancy. The President had some good discussions over the weekend with some of his senior advisors. The President takes this responsibility seriously. He is moving forward in a thoughtful and deliberate manner. The President believes it's important to make sure that the members of the Senate are consulted as we move forward on the nomination process. He has been listening to their views and their thoughts. We have now consulted with more than 60 members of the Senate. That includes three-quarters of Senate Democrats.”

“The President remains committed to making a nomination in a timely manner so that that nominee can be confirmed by the time the Court reconvenes in October. And as you heard him say, that's the backstop from which we are working. The President has made it clear that he intends to nominate a fair-minded individual who represents the mainstream of American law and American values. He will appoint someone to the position of high intellect and great legal ability, a person of integrity who will faithfully interpret our Constitution and our laws.”

‘The President has said that this will be an individual that all Americans can be proud of. And I think the American people expect that as we move forward on the confirmation process that it be done so in a dignified and civil way that rises above any partisanship. The President has also said that the nominee should be treated fairly and have a fair hearing and a fair vote. I think that you all have seen the precedent in recent times that was set when it came to Justices Ginsburg and Breyer, and that is the precedent that the President believes should be followed as we move forward, once he has named someone to fill this vacancy.’

-White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan, White House Press Briefing, 7/18/05